



Docket No. THOLAM P167US

**PATENT  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT**

**AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re **PATENT**

Application of: : **Earl Alexander Culham**

Serial No. : **09/988,689**

Title : **Method of Linking Web Pages**

Filed : **November 20, 2001**

Art Unit : **2178**

Examiner : **Kyle R. Stork**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 11, 2005

Dear Kyle:

In our phone interview on **June 28, 2005**, which included you, your supervisor , and myself, it was determined that the prior arts you had cited did not anticipate one key aspect of this invention, namely the fact that Supplementary Links do not take up any visible space on the output rendering of the primary web page. It was also decided that the wording of the independent claims could and should be tightened up to focus on this particular aspect of the invention.

In the Claims:

Each claim has been marked as to whether it is Currently Amended, Previously Amended, or Original, in order to assist you in evaluating the changes.

70. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of:

associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, such supplementary link lacks the features of the anchor which make a regular hypertext link visible and selectable, thus a supplementary link is normally hidden from view and does not disrupt the flow of text or graphics displayed on the web page;

providing information processing means by which the at least one supplementary link is transformed into a regular hypertext link.